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Committee for Programme and Coordination
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9 June to 3 July 2003
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Item 4 (a)

Section 3
Political affairs

1. At its eleventh and xxth meetings, on 17 June and xx July 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect.3)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 3 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. The view was expressed that the work of the Department of Political Affairs was central to, and the core of, the foundation of the United Nations. Views were expressed in support of actions geared towards the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts. It was pointed out that the international community had expectations for more concrete action in future to prevent, control and resolve conflicts.

4. The Committee welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to focus on the reinforcement of the United Nations conflict-prevention capacity. The Committee also recognized that strengthening cooperation with regional organizations on

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conflict prevention would contribute to effective implementation by the Department of Political Affairs of its mandate.

5. In that regard, it was underlined that cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations would greatly contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and to peacemaking and peace-building.

6. Appreciation and support were expressed for the valuable work carried out by the Department in the areas of electoral assistance. Support was also expressed to encourage the development of benchmarks for electoral processes. The view was expressed that the utmost efforts should be made to respond in a positive manner to all requests from Member States for electoral assistance.

7. Support was expressed for the work of the Department to service and support the work of the Security Council. It was pointed out that the responsibility of the Department to service and support the work of the Security Council had changed considerably with the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) concerning measures to eliminate international terrorism. Support was expressed for strengthening the Counter-Terrorism Committee and for it to play a leading role in the fight against international terrorism.

8. The view was expressed that the Palestinian people continued to need international assistance in the economic, social and political areas. The view was also expressed that resources devoted to the activities relating to the question of Palestine should be redeployed and redirected to activities that would directly contribute to the well-being of the Palestinian people.

9. Support was expressed for the activities carried out by the United Nations with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Support was expressed for regular consultations among the Special Committee on the situation with regard to the Implementation of Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The view was also expressed that periodic visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by delegations of the Special Committee were not needed.

10. The view was further expressed that the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process continued to play an important role both by itself, and as part of the Quartet, in promoting the Middle East peace process. It was also recognized that the Special Coordinator would continue to play an important role in implementing the proposals of the "road map" for a permanent and peaceful resolution of the conflict between the Israeli and the Palestinian people.

11. The Committee underlined the need that Member States be kept up-to-date on the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator in support of the Middle East Peace Process, in particular, through press releases on the web page and the continued practice of monthly briefings to the Security Council.

12. It was indicated that some of the expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement, performance measures and external factors were not clear and therefore needed further refinement. It was also pointed out that the reference to the discontinuation of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* should not have been reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005 without a specific decision by the General Assembly.

13. The Committee drew attention to a provision in Security Council resolution 1483 (2003) concerning the appointment of a Special Representative for Iraq that was not included in the proposed programme budget.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, subject to the modifications and recommendations appearing below.

15. The Committee took note of section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 and emphasized the need for the programme managers of this section to comply with Regulation 5.6 and Rule 105.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

Overview

16. **Para. 3.7: After the words "for further change (A/57/387)", add the words "approved in paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution 57/300".**

Policy-making organs
Security Council

17. **Para. 3.16: In the fourth sentence, delete the words "the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait".**

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

Table 3.13
Indicators of achievement

18. **At the end of indicator of achievement (i), add the words "through peaceful means".**

19. **In indicator of achievement (ii), after the words "in which", add the words "conflicts or situations of conflict exist, and in which".**

20. **In indicator of achievement (ii), delete the words "including in cooperation with partners" and the surrounding punctuation.**

Subprogramme 2
Electoral assistance

21. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat ensure prompt and full consideration of requests by Member States for electoral assistance on the basis of the provision in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

Subprogramme 3
Security Council affairs

22. **The Committee recommended that the development of the integrated information database on the activities of the Security Council be expedited.**

Subprogramme 4
Decolonization

Table 3.19
Expected accomplishments

23. **After the words "Non-Self-Governing Territories" at the end of expected accomplishment (a), add the words "in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations".**

Table 3.19
Indicators of achievement

24. **Include as an indicator of achievement the following: "The effectiveness of servicing provided to the Special Committee, its seminars and the General Assembly; the effectiveness of research and analytical studies and reports on conditions in the Territories; and the effectiveness of publicity campaigns".**

Table 3.19
Objective 2

25. **After the words "Non-Self-Governing Territories" at the end of objective 2, add the words "in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations".**

External factors, paragraph 3.44, subparagraph (d)

26. **Replace the text of subparagraph (d) with the following text: "the administering Powers will cooperate with the Special Committee in the implementation of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations".**

Subprogramme 5
Question of Palestine

27. **Para. 3.47: In the last sentence, after the words "international legitimacy", insert the words "and legality".**

28. **Para. 3.47: At the end of the paragraph, add the words "in accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions".**

Table 3.21
Indicators of achievement

29. **In indicator of achievement (i), delete the words "as evidenced by the voting on the relevant resolutions".**

Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

Table 3.25
Indicators of achievement

30. **In indicators of achievement (b) (i) and (ii), delete the word "incontrovertible".**

31. **The Committee recommended that the Department of Political Affairs formulate more precise, measurable indicators of achievement, since it did not believe that numbers of meetings constitute a meaningful indicator of achievement.**